

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 4, 2004. Claims 1 to 9 and 11 to 13 remain pending in the application, with Claim 10 having been cancelled herein. Claims 1, 12 and 13 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to address typographical errors noted therein. No new matter has been added.

Claims 9 to 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The subject matter which formed the basis for the rejections has been amended to be more clearly defined. Thus, withdrawal of the § 112 rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 6, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,737,707 (Gaulke), and Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Gaulke in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,622,031 (McCleary). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns controlling power saving modes in, for example, a facsimile apparatus that uses Bluetooth communications. According to the invention, the facsimile apparatus can switch between first and second communication modes, and can switch between first and second state modes (e.g., an active mode and a standby or park mode). When an inquiry about the state of the facsimile apparatus is received from, for instance, the personal computer, a first process is performed to return a response to the inquiry. However, when no inquiry is received, a second process is performed to generate an inquiry about the state of the apparatus internally so that if a state change occurs, it can be notified to the personal computer. Thus, the facsimile apparatus does not need to maintain a connection with the personal computer and can enter the

"Park" mode. (See, for example, Figure 6 and the description at page 14, line 27 to page 22, line 12.)

With specific reference to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is an apparatus having a communication function, comprising first switching means for switching between first and second communication modes of the communication function, second switching means for switching between first and second state modes of the apparatus in accordance with the switching by the first switching means, returning means for responding to an inquiry about a state of the apparatus from another apparatus to which the apparatus is to be connected by the communication function, execution means for executing a first process of notifying the inquiry from the another apparatus to the returning means, and for executing a second process of generating an inquiry about the state of the apparatus in place of the another apparatus, and for notifying the generated inquiry to the returning means, and process switching means for switching between the first process and the second process in accordance with the switching between communication modes by the first switching means.

Amended independent Claims 12 and 13 are method and computer storage medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 12 and 13. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of switching between execution of a first process of notifying a received inquiry from another apparatus to a returning means, and execution of a second process of generating an inquiry about the state of the apparatus in place of the another apparatus and notifying the generated inquiry to the

returning means, where the switching is performed in accordance with switching between first and second communication modes.

Gaulke is merely seen to disclose an integrated pager and cellular phone system in which, when the pager receives an incoming page, it sends a signal to the phone to activate the phone. The phone then registers with a base station and can receive the incoming call. Thus, while Gaulke may involve a power saving function in a cellular phone, it is not seen to disclose or to suggest anything with regard to switching between execution of a first process of notifying a received inquiry from another apparatus to a returning means, and execution of a second process of generating an inquiry about the state of the apparatus in place of the another apparatus and notifying the generated inquiry to the returning means, where the switching is performed in accordance with switching between first and second communication modes. Accordingly, Gaulke is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention.

McCleary has been studied but is not seen to disclose or to suggest anything that, when combined with Gaulke, would have rendered the present invention obvious. More particularly, McCleary is merely seen to disclose a wireless handheld device that can communicate via Bluetooth specifications. However, McCleary is much like Gaulke in that it is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of switching between execution of a first process of notifying a received inquiry from another apparatus to a returning means, and execution of a second process of generating an inquiry about the state of the apparatus in place of the another apparatus and notifying the generated inquiry to the returning means, where the switching is performed in accordance with switching between first and second communication modes.

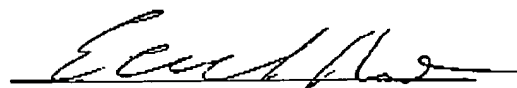
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of Claims 1 to 9 and 11 to 13 are believed to be allowable over the applied art.

As a formal matter, Applicants request that the Examiner provide an indication in the next communication acknowledging Applicants' claim to priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 and receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents, which were filed on January 11, 2002.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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